

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8488

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3873

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: SINGAPORE

REF: STATE 206421

1. I HAVE REVIEWED WITH THE COUNTRY TEAM REFTTEL'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, WHICH IN FACT CONSTITUTE A CONCISE CHECKLIST OF THE "CORE" ISSUES IN U.S.-SINGAPORE RELATIONS. THEY ARE BASICALLY DERIVED FROM THE EMBASSY'S PARM SUBMISSION, WHICH OF COURSE MORE ADEQUATELY SPELLS OUT THE BACKGROUND AND IMPLICATIONS OF THESE OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, SOME UPDATING APPEARS NECESSARY IN THE LIGHT OF SPECIAL CONCERNS MANIFESTED BY SINGAPORE SINCE SUBMISSION OF THE PARM, WHICH IN GENERAL HAVE TO DO WITH SINGAPORE'S CONCEPTION OF THE ROLE WHICH THE U.S. INTENDS TO PLAY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. REVISIONS ARE ACCORDINGLY SUGGESTED IN TWO SECTIONS (GENERAL POLITICAL AND DEFENSE AND SECURITY) AND AN ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVE UNDER ECONOMIC, AS NOTED BELOW. OTHERWISE, THERE ARE NO RECOMMENDED CHANGES. I BELIEVE THE REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS ARE SELF-EXPLANATORY.

2. GENERAL POLITICAL

-- REASSURE THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PRESERVING THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND IN ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN THE REGION (STATE, FIELD)

-- WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THE GOVERNMENT TENDS TO MAINTAIN
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A LOW PROFILEOYA ISSUES NOT OF DIRECT IMPORTANCE TO IT AND TO ADHERE TO A JOINT ASEAN POSITION, ENCOURAGE SINGAPORE AS A MODERATE, NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY BOTH ARTICULATE AND DYNAMIC IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO EXPRESS ITSELF FIRMLY ON CONTENTIOUS ISSUES REGARDLESS OF THE ATTITUDES OF RADICAL LDCS. (STATE, FIELD)

DEFENSE AND SECURITY

-- KEEP BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT OUR NEED FOR CONTINUED
(AND POSSIBLY IMPROVED) ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE MILITARY FACIL-
ITIES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN U.S. INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
AND THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THEREBY CONTRIBUTE TO REGIONAL STABILITY.
-- INDICATE THE WILLINGNESS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO BE
RESPONSIVE IN ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A MODEST
DEFENSE CAPABILITY THROUGH FMS CASH SALES OF APPROPRIATE
MILITARY EQUIPMENT, SELECTIVE MILITARY TRAINING, AND OCCASIONAL
JOINT EXERCISES. (STATE, DOD, FIELD)

ECONOMIC

-- DEMONSTRATE TO THE GOVERNMENT A SYMPATHETIC UNDER-
STANDING OF THE PROBLEMS SINGAPORE WILL EVENTUALLY FACE AS
IT GRADUATES FROM LDC STATUS, AND A DUE REGARD FOR SINGAPORE'S
SPECIAL ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY. (STATE, TREASURY, FIELD)
HOLDRIDGE

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